

COMPUTERWORLD

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By Edith Holmes
Of the CW Staff

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know of software capability that would permit the SSA to get rid of one phase of its computing operation.

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know of software capability that would permit the SSA to get rid of one phase of its computing operation.

In particular, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) "has a package which simulates the Univac 70/35 emulating an RCA 301," Ferdinand Jung has learned.

With that package to run RCA programs on an IBM 360 and with information from the Pentagon that the capability exists to mix OS and DOS jobs on an IBM OS machine, Jung said, the SSA should be able to dispense with its medium-scale operations.

For Jung, the information from these agencies confirmed what he has contended all along — that "present capacity more efficiently utilized is more than adequate to handle all of the SSA's computer requirements" [CW, Jan. 26].

But "no official contact has been made with SSA by either the CIA or the Pentagon," according to Harry Overs, acting director of the SSA's Bureau of Data Processing.

"SSA has always been aware of simulation techniques and of the capability to run DOS under OS, but does not find most of these capabilities suitable to our

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(Continued from Page 1)

"Based on their informal contact with Mr. Jung," he continued, "we have requested specific details regarding the Univac 70/35 simulation package from the CIA. We have no knowledge of the supposed contact with the Pentagon."

"When the requested information is available," Overs said, "it will be subjected to technical evaluation, as with any product or service that may be of potential use."

For 45 days last fall, Jung was

put on special assignment by the SSA to document recommendations he had made before a House Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds a year ago.

Suggested Scrapping Operation

Following his review of the administration's computer operations, Jung suggested the SSA transfer all work performed on its medium-scale operation — 10 IBM 360/30S and two Univac 70/355 — to its large-scale operation, which consists of two

370/168s, two 370/165s and 13 360/65s.

By scrapping the medium-scale operation, approximately 14,000 square feet of space would be freed to house either two loosely coupled IBM 370/168 multiprocessors or four 370/168 uniprocessors to help the current large-scale set-up handle the additional workload.

Jung suggested using this space instead of building the \$2.3 million temporary facility recently approved by Congress.

But "SSA computer facility ex-

perts" told Jung they had determined 20,000 square feet of space would be needed for the 370/168s and the required medium-scale program conversions to the large-scale systems could not be completed until October 1976 and would take approximately 49 man-years.

Conversion Time Disputed

Jung said he recognizes the SSA's use of the information from the CIA and the Pentagon to convert 158 medium-scale programs would represent an in-

efficient use of the larger IBM machines. But, he maintained, the computer capacity the administration has said it lacks is thus proved available.

"Depending on the number of modifications that may have to be done on the simulation package, the whole medium-scale transition could have been made in two calendar months with fewer people as opposed to the 49 man-years the SSA wants say is needed," Jung stated.

Overs noted "the 49 man-year estimate is based on a conversion which would fully utilize the facilities of the large-scale systems with minimum impact on existing large-scale workloads."

"While a 'transition' via simulation may require less than 49 man-years, it would require considerably longer than two calendar months, merely postpone the expenditure of resources to accomplish a full conversion and could impact the existing large-scale workloads," he added.

Jung maintained construction for modifying the current medium-scale room to receive the 370/168s — either uniprocessors or multiprocessors — could have been accomplished much sooner than is currently required with the \$2.3 million temporary facility.

But "because of the costs, the medium-scale construction would have had to undergo the same prospectus and contract award process," Overs noted.

"Furthermore, electrical power is the primary timing constraint in the construction project and, since the same power requirements exist for either the temporary facility or the medium-scale area, there would have been very little difference in the time needed to accomplish either."

"The necessary transformer equipment has a six-month lead time for delivery plus additional time for installation," he contended.

Jung said he had understood SSA is currently paying rent on the four 370/168s and has them sitting in a warehouse. But Overs stated the equipment is still IBM's property and in the corporation's possession; no payments have been made yet, he added.

"Elimination of medium-scale operations and reuse of that space for installation of the IBM 370/168s does not negate the needs to expand present facilities and to construct a new computer center," Overs remarked.

"This is not to say the SSA does not plan to eliminate medium-scale operations. However, such an effort must be conducted in a staged and orderly manner," he added.

He emphasized justifications to expand the SSA's present facilities and to construct the new computer center were submitted to and approved by Congress.

"The management of the SSA is confident that a review of those plans, presently being conducted by the General Accounting Office, will result in concurrence with the decisions to proceed with construction," he said.

Jung is equally confident that study will support his analysis.

"The administration's management can't afford for me to be right today," he commented. "A year ago it could have."